

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 6 and 9-16 and amend claims 1 and 7, as follows, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough and double brackets indicate deletions.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for handling an article such as a coil spring, the device comprising a body having an internal housing suitable for containing said article, said housing presenting at least one open end and a constriction zone that is suitable, in a stable state in which said constriction zone presents a reduced dimension that is reduced in a first direction, for retaining said article inside the body, and for being deformed to adopt a deformed configuration enabling said article to be inserted into the housing and to be extracted from the housing, said constriction zone in the deformed configuration thereof presents a cross-section that is substantially circular, the constriction zone in the stable state thereof presents two closer-together portions along a short dimension and two farther-apart portions along a long dimension, said two farther apart portions being suitable for being moved towards each other in order to move said two closer-together portions apart from each other.

2. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein in the deformed configuration thereof, the constriction zone is in a state that is unstable.

3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said body is substantially elongate and tubular in shape.

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said constriction zone in the stable state thereof presents a reduced dimension in a cross-section of said body.

5 and 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim ~~[[6]]~~1, wherein said body has two open ends.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 7, wherein said body includes a collar close to at least one open end of said body.

9-16. (Cancelled).